

I met Ada 15 years ago when I began my political service in the North Carolina General Assembly. From the first time I met her, I was inspired by her courage, focus, and plain talk. She was a lifelong Republican. She was dedicated to the party of Abraham Lincoln, and she did not hesitate to challenge anyone from across the political spectrum who threatened the principles of personal liberty, individual responsibility, and social justice.

Although I met Ada after she retired, she never seemed to slow down. She traveled across the State advocating for common sense “prescriptions” to the challenges we faced. She became the first African-American to be elected Republican National Committee—RNC—committeewoman for North Carolina. Ada was known for her letters. Some were focused on policies she was promoting, and others were focused on challenging policies she did not think were helpful. Whether or not you agreed with her opinion, you had to respect the thoughtfulness and the work she put into them.

When Ada wasn't working on public policy, she was focused on her family. Ada never married, but she adopted two sons who blessed her with two grandchildren. She also had three siblings and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins. She adored her family, and they adored her.

I attended Ada's funeral last month, and I was honored to speak at her memorial service. While I was considering what I should say, it occurred to me that I had never written a letter to Ada, so I decided to write a letter to her and deliver it at the memorial. I wished that I had sent it long before her passing, but I hope she enjoys it nonetheless as she reads it in heaven.

Dear Ada, I'm sorry I am just now sending you this letter, but I hope it finds you well in the Kingdom of Heaven. I regret that I haven't had the opportunity to see you recently, but I am glad that my last memory of you was giving you a hug when we were together. Had I known it was to be the last time I would see you, I would have hugged you a little longer.

After I received the sad news of your passing, I reflected on the times we spent together, and it gave me some comfort as I grieved your loss. I knew you as a staunch advocate for people who are struggling, for diversity, for personal responsibility, and for individual freedom. I remember so many times when you challenged a crowd to think differently. You didn't look for applause lines, you looked for opportunities to make a point and to make a difference. You didn't hesitate to get people out of their comfort zone by saying what needed to be said, and you gained many followers and admirers along the way.

I am embarrassed to admit that I only knew a small part of your work since the time we met 15 years ago, and I did not fully comprehend your life's work with helping others. I've studied

you more since your passing Ada, and you are truly even more remarkable than I imagined.

As a young African American woman, you excelled in academics—a medical degree and a master's degree in public health. You could have taken a life-long path to personal enrichment, but you chose to return home to North Carolina to set up a rural health clinic and programs to help people struggling with substance abuse. You helped veterans.

You studied education and became a certified teacher in math and science. You served in what I believe is the most difficult political position on earth—a local school board. Man, I wish they were televised in those days. I'm sure it would have been a sight to see! You understood that education is the surest path to freedom, and you worked hard to ensure that every child (including your two sons) had an opportunity to pursue that path.

The truth is, Ada, you have done so much for so many, and you've set a high bar for the rest of us. I am saddened that you left this earthy world far too soon because I know you had so many more things you would do to make it a better place. But thank you for everything you did Ada, and thank you for the blessing of your friendship.

Now that you've had a few weeks in the Kingdom of Heaven, I hope you've found time to rest. You deserve it, Ada. Know that we are praying for you and that we love you, and we will continue to be inspired by your life's work.

With Love and Admiration, Thom T.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly to fill the existing vacancy thereon: Mr. Crow of Colorado.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 703 of the Social

Security Act (42 U.S.C. 903), and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Social Security Advisory Board for a term of 6 years, effective October 9, 2022: Mrs. Amy Shuart Gingrich of Alexandria, Virginia.

The message also announced that pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 2004(b), and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation, to fill the existing vacancy thereon: Mr. Kim of New Jersey.

The message further announced that pursuant to 29 U.S.C. 780, and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the National Council on Disability: Ms. Sascha Bittner of San Francisco, California.

The message also announced that pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2501, and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission: Mrs. Hayes of Connecticut.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 50802 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123), and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker reappoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on Social Impact Partnerships: Ms. Anne Wilson of San Rafael, California.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 8987. An act to amend the Justice for United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Act to authorize appropriations for catch-up payments from the United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Fund.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on October 17, 2022, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 169. An act to amend title 17, United States Code, to require the Register of Copyrights to waive fees for filing an application for registration of a copyright claim in certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

S. 442. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to require the Administrator of General Services to procure the most life-cycle cost effective and energy efficient lighting products and to issue guidance on the efficiency, effectiveness, and economy of those products, and for other purposes.

S. 516. An act to plan for and coordinate efforts to integrate advanced air mobility aircraft into the national airspace system, and for other purposes.

S. 958. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to expand the allowable use criteria for new access points grants for community health centers.